

METHOD OF INDUCING CELL-MEDIATED PROTECTIVE  
IMMUNITY AGAINST HIV USING LOW DOSES OF IMMUNOGENS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method and composition is disclosed for inducing a  
protective immunity against HIV by inoculation with immunogens  
in low doses that are sufficient to induce a sustained cell-  
mediated response to HIV but below the amount necessary to  
induce an offsetting humoral response. The immunogens  
10 available for use in this method include attenuated forms of  
the HIV virus, subunits of the HIV virus, inactivated HIV  
virus and subinfectious doses of live HIV virus, all delivered  
at low doses. These immunogens can be prepared with suitable  
carriers, adjuvants or diluents and administered either  
15 intramuscularly, mucosally (e.g., orally), intravenously or  
subcutaneously. The effectiveness of the initial dose of  
immunogen can be monitored for the presence of a sufficient  
cell-mediated response using a T-cell proliferation assay or  
an interleukin-2 assay and monitored for the lack of  
20 offsetting humoral response using commercially available ELISA  
assays for anti-HIV antibodies. Depending upon the results of  
the cell-mediated response assays, supplementary or "booster"  
inoculations may be appropriate.